THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No separate study has been made, but it is well known that deforestation on steep hill slopes in high rainfall zones renders them vulnerable to erosion and landslides.

(d) The following steps are being taken:

(i) Greater vigilance is being exercised to prevent illicit fellings in forests.

(ii) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to check indiscriminate diversion of forest lands to non-forest use.

(iii) Afforestation effort inclusive of farm forestry is being intensified.

Smuggling of Uranium to Canada

1003. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the allegation raised by a member in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly regarding the smuggling of uranium from the mines of Lalitpur district to Canada.

(b) whether Government have received any report in this regard from the Uttar Pradesh Government; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Government has seen a news report to this effect.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Pak successful testing of Nuclear Triggers

1004. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Pakistan has successfully tested triggers for nuclear bomb;

(b) whether Government are also aware that in the last month of July, 1985 Pakistani scientists successfully tested the firing mechanism known as krypton producing a non-nuclear explosion; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, what steps the Government of India propose to take to manufacture nuclear weapons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) Government's attention has been drawn to reports about testing by Pakistan of trigger devices known as krytrons obtained from the USA.

(c) Government remains committed to the development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. All developments having a bearing on the country's security are kept under constant review and Government will continue to do so with utmost vigil.

Pak smuggling of Electronic Triggers from USA

1005. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ascertained the veracity of the report that Pakistan has successfully tested U.S. made kryptons' electronic trigger;

(b) whether Government have also ascertained whether Pakistan have reportedly succeeded on experimenting a secret centrifuge plant at Kahuta for enriching uranium to weapon-grade level;